

Appl. No.: 10/803,261

Amendment dated March 22, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A dry end section for a paper-making machine for producing a high-bulk tissue, said machine comprising:
 - a through-air dryer adapted to finally dry a paper web;
 - a through-air drying fabric configured to transport the web through the through-air dryer;
 - a separating device comprising a suction-configured roll for separating the web from the through-air drying fabric, the separating device being configured to receive the web directly thereon from the through-air drying fabric;
 - an air emission arrangement disposed adjacent to the separating device and configured to facilitate separation of the web from the through-air drying fabric;
 - a reel having a reel drum disposed adjacent thereto so as to form a reel-up for receiving the web, the reel-up being spaced apart from the separating device; and
 - a non-contacting support system disposed in the space between the separating device and the reel-up, the non-contacting support system being configured to receive the web directly from the separating device and to transport the web directly to the reel-up.
2. (Original) A dry end section according to Claim 1 wherein the non-contacting support system comprises at least one active air foil device.
3. (Original) A dry end section according to Claim 1 further comprising a web-compressing device disposed between the separating device and the reel-up and configured to compress the web.
4. (Original) A dry end section according to Claim 3 wherein the web-compressing device comprises a pair of adjacently-disposed rolls defining a nip, the web being directed through the nip before being received by the reel-up.
5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Original) A dry end section according to Claim 1 wherein the separating device comprises a roll having a perforated mantle and a suction device disposed within the mantle in spaced apart relation with respect thereto, the suction device being configured to selectively provide a suction zone about the mantle.

7. (Original) A dry end section according to Claim 6 wherein the suction device is adjustably disposed within the mantle.

8. (Original) A dry end section according to Claim 6 wherein the mantle defines an axis and the suction device is disposed within the mantle so as to be rotatable about the axis.

9. (Original) A dry end section according to Claim 1 wherein the separating device is configured to provide an adjustable suction for separating the web from the through-air drying fabric.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for making a tissue with enhanced tactile quality and facilitating reel-up of the tissue in a dry end of a tissue paper-making machine, said method comprising:

finally drying a tissue web on a through-air drying fabric with a through air dryer;
separating the tissue web from the through-air drying fabric with a separating device comprising a suction-configured roll, and with an air emission arrangement disposed adjacent to the separating device, such that the tissue web is received directly on the separating device from the through-air drying fabric;
transporting the tissue web from the separating device directly to a reel nip spaced apart therefrom, with a non-contacting support system disposed within the space between the separating device and the reel nip, the reel nip being formed between a reel and a reel drum disposed adjacent thereto; and
directing the tissue web through the reel nip so as to wind the tissue web onto the reel.

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12. (Original) A method according to Claim 11 wherein transporting the tissue web further comprises transporting the tissue web with a non-compacting support system comprising at least one active air foil device.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A method according to Claim 11 further comprising directing the tissue web through a web-compressing device prior to directing the tissue web through the reel nip.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim 14 wherein directing the tissue web through a web-compressing device further comprises directing the tissue web through a web-compressing device having a nip formed between adjacently-disposed rolls.

16. (Original) A method according to Claim 11 wherein separating the tissue web from the through-air drying fabric further comprises separating the tissue web from the through-air drying fabric with a separating device configured to apply suction to the tissue web.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 wherein separating the tissue web from the through-air drying fabric with a separating device configured to apply suction to the tissue web further comprises applying a greater suction to the tissue web when the tissue web is first separated from the through-air drying fabric and then applying a lesser suction to the tissue web thereafter.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for making a tissue with enhanced tactile quality and facilitating reel-up of the tissue in a dry end of a tissue paper-making machine, said method comprising:

finally drying a tissue web, having a basis weight of between about 10 g/m² and about 50 g/m², on a through-air drying fabric with a through air dryer, the web having a dry

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caliper of between about 0.2 mm and about 0.5 mm and, therefore, a density of between about 20 kg/m³ and about 250 kg/m³;
separating the tissue web from the through-air drying fabric with a separating device comprising a suction-configured roll, and with an air emission arrangement disposed adjacent to the separating device, such that the tissue web is received directly on the separating device from the through-air drying fabric;
transporting the tissue web from the separating device directly to a reel nip spaced apart therefrom, with a non-contacting support system comprising at least one active air foil device disposed within the space between the separating device and the reel nip, the reel nip being formed between a reel and a reel drum disposed adjacent thereto; and
directing the tissue web through the reel nip so as to wind the tissue web onto the reel.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 18 further comprising directing the tissue web through a web-compressing device having a nip formed between adjacently-disposed rolls so as to reduce the dry caliper of the web by between about 20% and about 50% prior to directing the tissue web through the reel nip.

20. (Original) A method according to Claim 18 further comprising directing the tissue web through a web-compressing device having a nip formed between adjacently-disposed rolls so as to reduce the dry caliper of the web to between about 0.15 mm and about 0.4 mm, so as to provide a post-compression density of between about 25 kg/m³ and about 333.3 kg/m³, prior to directing the tissue web through the reel nip.